



MINUTES



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION AUGUST 20, 2008

**Call to Order/
Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Rivera, who led Commissioners and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioners Absent: Siersema

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Harlow, Kirkorn, Mason, McGovern, Rivera and Spencer were in attendance.

Others Present: Travis Hopkins, Director of Public Works
Howard Johnson, Utilities Manager
Bill Janusz, Principal Civil Engineer, Transportation
Joyce Greene, Administrative Assistant

MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner McGovern to approve the minutes of July 16, 2008.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	5
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	1 (Siersema)
ABSTENTIONS:	1 (Spencer)

PRESENTATIONS-COMMENDATIONS

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Travis Hopkins informed the Commission the Next Mayor's Roundtable is scheduled for October 8, 2008. When the date and time are confirmed the Commissioners will be advised.

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INFORMATION ITEMS

- F-1. Active Capital Project Report – An update on active capital projects under construction, as well as those in the planning stage was presented for the Commission's information.

Commissioner Mason inquired on the status of the in-road lighted crosswalk at Bushard and Yellowstone. Bill Janusz responded the equipment has been ordered and the pre-construction meeting was held today with the contractor starting construction August 21, 2008. The estimated completion date of the installation is the first week of September.

- F-2. Upcoming City Council Study Sessions – The City Council conducts public Study Sessions on the evenings of City Council meetings, normally beginning at 4:00 p.m., in Room B-8. A tentative listing of upcoming sessions is submitted for the Commission's information. Travis Hopkins informed the Commission Public Works does not have any items scheduled for Study Session at this time.

- F-3. Update on Water Supplies – Travis Hopkins introduced Howard Johnson, Utilities Manager, who provided the Commission with an update on water supplies and city water conservation measures. A brief overview of the percentages of water from ground supplies and imported water from previous years and the allocation for the current water year (July to June) was reviewed.

Mr. Johnson stated city conservation efforts have been very good but can be improved upon. In 2007, Huntington Beach was the first city in Orange County to adopt a drought management resolution and continues to be a leader in water conservation. In August 2008, City Council approved the Water Management Plan documenting the need to conserve water to avoid or minimize the effects of water shortages. A review of conservation efforts already in place at city facilities was reviewed. Discussion ensued. Mr. Johnson will continue to keep the Commissioners updated on water supplies.

- F-4. Funding Sources for Alleys and Block Walls – At the July Public Works Commission meeting the Commissioners requested an investigation for any possible funding sources for alley and city block wall repairs be made. Such an investigation was conducted and Travis Hopkins presented the item. The city contains 33.3 miles of alleys with some of the alleys more in need of repair/resurfacing than others. Of the 33 miles of alleys, 3.1 miles have been repaired/resurfaced since 2003 through Redevelopment Agency projects or through Water Fund projects.

Mr. Hopkins reviewed the various funding sources available to Public Works and provided a brief overview of the guidelines for use of each funding source. Mr. Hopkins informed the Commission he has requested an interpretation of State Highway Code § 1805 from the City Attorney's Office that might allow alleys to become included in street designation by a 4/5 vote of City Council. He emphasized this action would not result in any additional funding to the city but could allow for alleys to be included for rehabilitation similar to city streets, if the opinion is favorable. Mr. Hopkins will keep the Commission advised of any opinion by the City Attorney's Office. Discussion ensued.

The Commissioners requested staff investigate the possibility of a simple rating system for alleys. The intent is to establish a list to be repaired on a needs basis as funds become available. Mr. Hopkins agreed a simplified ranking system could be conducted but informed the Commission he would like to wait on proceeding until he receives the opinion from the City Attorney on State Highway Code § 1805.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- G-1. Safe Routes to School Project in the Vicinity of Mesa View Middle School-CC 1243 – Bill Janusz presented the item. The item is similar to the Sowers School and Newland School projects recently reviewed by the Public Works Commission. The project includes the installation of east-west left turn arrows at the intersection of Slater Avenue and Edwards Street, and installation of curb ramps, radar feedback signs, replacement of damaged sidewalk, and signing and striping improvements.

Motion by Commissioner Kirkorn, seconded by Commissioner Harlow to authorize the Director of Public Works to advertize the Safe Routes to School Project in the vicinity of Mesa View Middle School.

VOTE: The motion carried.
AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Siersema)
ABSTENTIONS: 0

- G-2. Safe Routes to School Project in the Vicinity of Marine View Middle School (CC 1244) – Bill Janusz presented the item. The project is located north of Slater Avenue and east of Graham Street and will include installation of curb ramps, replacement of damaged sidewalk, installation of radar feedback signs, and signing and striping improvements.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner McGovern to authorize the Director of Public Works to advertize the Safe Routes to School Project in the vicinity of Marine View Middle School.

VOTE: The motion carried.

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Siersema)

ABSTENTIONS: 0

- G-3. Memo to City Council Regarding Maintenance of Edinger Parkway Landscaping – Travis Hopkins presented the item. This item was on the July agenda and carried over to the August Public Works Commission Meeting. At the direction of the Commission, Mr. Hopkins contacted the Sea Isle Garden Club to discuss maintenance issues of the Edinger parkway landscaping. The Commissioners recollection of the project when originally presented was to have the Sea Isle Garden Club maintain the landscaping.

Mr. Hopkins has been in contact with Dorothy Ralphs of the Sea Isle Garden Club to discuss the maintenance issue. Ms. Ralphs stated she knew the maintenance issue was unresolved with the garden club and she has been working with the various home owner associations (HOA) that would need to be involved. Ms. Ralphs learned it would require an amendment to each HOA CC&R's to take on the commitment to maintain the landscaping. Ms. Ralphs inquired about the possibility of an assessment district. She also mentioned to Mr. Hopkins the garden club had raised funds to help with the cost of curb installation and had agreed to a fund match for the cost of the landscaping all of which would have otherwise required all city funding.

The Commissioners expressed concern over the process of the funds from the garden club being received by the city as there has been a breakdown in the process over who was going to be responsible for the ongoing landscape maintenance of the project. Mr. Hopkins offered to contact Ms. Ralphs again and request a written agreement from the Sea Isle Garden Club for the funding of the landscaping match. Discussion ensued.

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Commissioner Harlow offered to contact Council Member Cathy Green, who brought the landscaping item to City Council. Commissioner Harlow will discuss the understanding by Public Works Commission of the ongoing landscaping maintenance commitment by the Sea Isle Garden Club, and the item that was presented to City Council by Council Member Green that did not include the ongoing maintenance of the landscaping.

The Commissioners agreed to table the item until the next meeting to allow Commissioner Harlow time to meet with Council Member Green and then report back to the Commission.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS


Commissioner Kirkorn inquired about traffic signals and street lights at the Home Depot location at Magnolia and Garfield. Bill Janusz responded no signal will be installed on Garfield, and the signal at Magnolia is to close to add a left turn pocket on Garfield. No left turn allowed into the parking lot will remain in effect on Garfield. There is a traffic signal being installed on Magnolia with left turn into the parking lot.

Mr. Janusz said he would need to refer to the plan for street lighting and could not answer with certainty until doing so regarding street lighting on Garfield. He did not believe the plan called for a reduction in the number of street lights. Commissioner Kirkorn mentioned a street light that was removed with the widening of the driveway on Garfield. Mr. Janusz will review the plan and respond back to Commissioner Kirkorn.

ADJOURNMENT

The Public Works Commission adjourned to the meeting date of Wednesday, September 17, 2008, 5:00 p.m., City Council Chambers. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

George Rivera
Chair



Joyce A. Greene
Administrative Assistant

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